



VOL. 1, NO. 4, FEBRUARY 2009

Inside ...of OJJ



Dr. Mary L. Livers, Deputy Secretary

Mission:

The Office of Juvenile Justice protects the public by providing safe and effective individualized services to youth, who will become productive,

It's hard to believe that February is here already. We are well into 2009 and all the changes that this year will bring to OJJ. This month we celebrate Valentine's Day – a day set aside to let the people in our lives know that they are loved and cared for. I hope you have the opportunity to share the day with your Valentines.

I ran across some sayings recently and wanted to share them with all of you. We can all become better people when we follow sage advice – sometimes we just need to be reminded of things that we really know instinctively. The sayings below go long way towards helping us all to be better...Valentines.

From Life's Little Instruction Book:

Treat everyone you meet like you want to be treated. Strive for excellence, not perfection. Plant a tree on your birthday. Return borrowed vehicles with the gas tank full. Compliment three people every day. Never waste an opportunity to tell people you love them. Leave everything a little better than you found it. Keep it simple. Think big thoughts but relish small pleasures. Become the most positive, enthusiastic person you know. Be forgiving of yourself and others. Say "Thank You" a lot. Say "please" a lot. Avoid negative people. Remember other people's birthdays. Commit yourself to constant improvement. Have a firm handshake. Look people in the eye. Be the first to say hello. Return all borrowed things. Stop blaming others. Be there when people need you. Don't expect life to be fair. Don't be afraid to say, "I made a mistake." Don't be afraid to say, "I don't know." Count your blessings. Call your Mother.

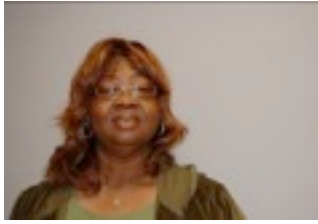
Have a great February.

"Doc" Dr. Mary Livers

DOC" DR. MARY L. LIVERS

Soul Food

An inspirational column by OJJ staff



Bridge City

Chaplain Beulah Moore

Having a special day that reminds us to love and be loved is wonderful.

However, love is something we should express daily.

Sow the seeds of love and love will return.

Show affection and most people will be inclined to respond in a kind way.

Giving is a huge part of love, for me it's fun seeing how I get back what I try to give away.

Insecure and self centered people dare to care!

They feel too empty of love to give it and too unworthy to accept it.

Love is faith in action.

Love is finding a need and filling it.

Love is finding a hurt and healing it.

Love is finding a problem and solving it.

Love is feeling someone's grief and consoling them.

Real love is my deciding to make your problem, my problem.

Love is not envious but it's loving your neighbour as thyself.

Love is seeing the chasm and bridging it.

What you make happen for others, the Creator will make happen for you.

You reap what you sow, whatever you plant you will get a harvest.

Cast your bread upon the waters and in many days it shall return.

Your river may flow in one direction but His river allows iron to float.

Take nothing and no one for granted, use things and not people.

You can be a blooming flower, one that brings color to brighten a gloomy day.

When you enter or leave a room your fragrance and beauty of joy should linger behind.

Let us open our alabaster box and share the treasures within, for the one who is sweeter than a honeycomb, lover, pastor of our soul has loved us with an everlasting love.

Let all that we do be done with love and let all of us participate in a continual celebration of that love.

With love to you and yours,

Dr. Beulah Moore, Chaplain
Bridge City Center for Youth

THE DAILY MOTIVATOR

Attempt more

If you wish to achieve more, then attempt more. Push yourself beyond what you already know you're able to do.

Get out of the rut of going through the same motions and ending up with the same results. Put some additional time, energy, thought and creativity into your actions.

Take on challenges that make you a little bit uncomfortable. Stretch your abilities and watch them grow.

Decide to reach higher and you'll find many new ways to move higher. Raise your expectations and you'll improve your performance.

Keep on learning, keep on growing, and keep on venturing beyond what you

already know. Give yourself the gift of increasingly ambitious goals.

Enjoy and appreciate how far you've already come. Then jump back in and make it even better.

-- Ralph Marston

Staff Spotlight Spotlight on...



Shirley

Jackson, Human Resources Manager, Central Office

As anyone who has had contact with the Central Office Human Resources Office knows, OJJ's HR staff usually goes the extra mile. Human Resources Manager Shirley Jackson is one of the HR staff who is always ready to assist with any problem or provide information, always with a smile.

"Shirley is very dependable, a hard worker and a good supervisor," said HR Director Gwendolyn Jones, in spotlighting Shirley. "She relates well to people - both those under her supervision and staff throughout the agency. Shirley has been with OJJ since its inception and knows the history of the agency."

Ms. Jones added that Shirley has two daughters, both currently attending college. Shirley's daughter Whitley, 21, is a student at Southeastern in Hammond, and daughter Dana, 24, who will graduate from Northwestern State University in Natchitoches in May, served as an intern at the OJJ Natchitoches Regional Office.

"Being a mother is the best thing there is," Shirley said recently. "I get to mother my two brothers as well as my daughters. Holiday meals are held at our house - I like cooking and preparing for the holiday dinners, it's the closest taste to our mother's cooking.

Kids appear to be the center of Shirley's world, both personally and

professionally. "Here at OJJ we can really make a difference," Shirley said. "That's what this agency is all about - taking care of our kids."

Shirley said she is motivated by her daughters. "They are my motivation. Being a parent changes the way you think. I come to work every day thinking about my kids - I always encourage them and let them know that if there's something you really want, you have to go out and work for it. I have goals for myself and for them," Shirley continued. "We are going to accomplish our goals by working for what we want. If something is worth having, it's worth working for."

Shirley lives in East Feliciana Parish, quite a distance from her current office. She is a native of that area and plans to retire there as well.

Shirley's career began in 1982 with her first state job at East LA Mental Health Hospital in Jackson, where she worked with patients as a psychiatric aide. She is a 27-year state employee.

Shirley transferred to the Louisiana Correctional Institute for Women (LCIW) in St. Gabriel and worked in security, then to Dixon Correctional Institute (DCI) in Jackson, where she worked in inmate classification and human resources. She traveled often to Hunt Correctional Institute in St. Gabriel to screen inmate records for transfer to DCI's trusty crews. In that position Shirley gained valuable experience in learning who could best serve certain functions.

Offered a position in Human Resources at Youth Services, Shirley transferred to the Mayflower office, moving with OYD to its current location. "In Human Resources we are constantly on the go, but it's a great place to be," Shirley said. She noted that there is always something to learn, especially ISIS-HR, the system used by all state human resources professionals.

For fun, Shirley loves to read (romance novels are a favorite), hang out with her girls, and she loves to shop. "I am a shoe fanatic," she laughed. One of her favorite pastimes is shopping with her daughters.

Active in her church, F.T. Missionary Baptist Church in Jackson, Shirley enjoys being a hostess for members of visiting churches, showing off our community and making them feel welcome.

Shirley does look forward to retiring – some day. She plans to travel and to read – a lot. But those days are well in the future. Right now, she is too busy being a mother and taking care of OJJ staff, and by extension, our kids.

Dr. Livers notes that Shirley knows our mission.

OJJ Staff Attend the Presidential Inauguration



A number of OJJ staff traveled to Washington, DC to witness the historic inauguration of President Barack Obama.

Staff who let us know they attended include Nita Franklin-Shanklin, Assistant to Dr. Livers, HR Director

Gwendolyn Jones, HR Specialist Judith Fontenot and Policy Planner 3 Karen Chustz, all of Central Office; Major Vernon Foy, Chaplain Rev. Ricky James and Chic O'Hara, teacher, all from SCY; PPO3 Erica Hollingsworth, Monroe OJJ; April Polk, Food Service, BCCY; and PPO Brian Simpson, Lafayette OJJ. Our apologies if we missed any other travelers. Thanks to Nita for the photos.

Nita Franklin-Shanklin said, "My trip to the inauguration was awesome. You've heard others talk about history, but to actually be a part and witness history in the making was remarkable and very emotional. It was extremely cold before the program started, but afterwards, it really didn't matter because we were so "heated" with excited that the coldness sort of went away. I know that President Obama is a president for all people and with our help, will move this nation forward."

BCCY Staff Member April Polk Attended the Inauguration

By Monique Jones



April Polk at the U.S. Capitol

January 20, 2009, was a very important day – the inauguration of the 44th President of the USA. Everyone around the world wanted to attend this historical yet memorable event but were not fortunate enough to attend. However, April Polk, Food Service, had a chance to observe this remarkable event. She says it was so cold, she wore several pair of pants and shirts, and wrapped herself in warm blankets. Despite the cold, April said her visit was beautiful and pleasant. "It was so wonderful, there was no conflict and everyone from all nationalities got

along. As I listened to President Obama's speech, I realized he was there to represent the whole nation. Before he proceeded with his speech it was cloudy, but once Obama began speaking, the sun started shining," said April.

"The most important part of the Inauguration was watching everyone come together as one; really listening to what Obama was saying; realizing that he was chosen to represent all people," April said. For years, we have been hoping and praying for a change, now that change has come. On November 4, 2008 we put all of our ideological differences aside to make that change; proving that in the midst of chaotic times, as a nation, we can come together. We are blessed to have a man of great strength, great wisdom and great character to lead this nation."

Community Partnerships with Our Secure Care Facilities

CO Policy Planner Pam Wall reports that each of our secure care facilities is working with a community partner to expand parenting education to our youth who are fathers, or who may wish to learn more about nurturing parenting.

BCCY has a parenting/fathering program being provided by Prevent Child Abuse Louisiana through a TANF grant from DSS.

A grant from the LA Commission on Law Enforcement (LCLE) will allow Prevent Child Abuse Louisiana to replicate the 16-week class at JCY beginning this month.

Youth House in Ouachita Parish will start parenting classes at SCY this month through the same LCLE grant.

Alexandria Regional Office

Welcome to **PPO1 Robert Harris**, who began work with us in January.

PPOs Trinity Adams and Angelic McCray will begin the Alexandria POST Academy this month.

Baton Rouge Regional Office

Baton Rouge OJJ celebrated the beginning of the new year with family, friends and loved ones. We returned to work bright-eyed and purpose-driven, ready to tackle the new year and all the interesting things it would bring.

We began our journey into the new year by whisking away **PPO Darla Hood** and **PPO Larry Aaron** to the Capital Area Regional Training (POST) Academy. Both Darla and Larry have completed the firearms portion of the academy and are well on their way to becoming Commissioned Officers for the Baton Rouge Regional Office. (Go Larry and Darla!)

We welcomed the return of **PPO2 April Ross-Calvey** to the Placement Unit after her recent surgery. She said her surgery went well and she continues to thank God for her awesome recovery.

Next, we began our Effective Black Parenting Class every other Saturday beginning in January. This award-winning, skill-building program, created by the Center for the Improvement of Child Caring, teaches parents and others how to raise African-American children to become healthy, proud and successful individuals. The target group for this session is teens and parents with children under the age of 13. We would like to empower our young parents with good and effective parenting skills at the beginning of their child's life to help promote a promising future for our young people of tomorrow. This training is free and we welcome all parents in the community.

Bridge City Center for Youth

Welcome to New Employees

Shawn Fultz – Security Officer
 Chauka Jarreau – Social Worker 3
 Sandra Milliken – Adm. Coordinator 2
 Zandria Pinkey – Youth Care Worker 1
 Renesco Polite – Security Officer
 Laneaka Stipe – Adm. Coordinator 3
 Tureo Striggles – Youth Care Worker 1

Reorganization Plan Implemented We are LA MOD; Now We Bridge the Gap

BCCY is very excited to announce the roll-out of our new Unit Management Reorganization plan. We hand-selected some of our top security staff to be Group Leaders in the dorms along with our Social Services staff. The results are 10 dorms with a blend of security and social service leadership that will work together to fully implement the La Mod process at BCCY. All the members of the Leadership team as well as the education staff were also assigned to individual dorms. The Executive Leadership spent many long hours putting the plan together and we have already begun the roll-out.

The Leadership Team is working on constructing and revising post orders for Group Leaders, Assistant Group Leaders, Case Managers and Youthcare Workers and Officers.

Leadership Training took place at the Jefferson Regional Library. The Group Leaders, Assistant Group Leaders and Case Workers attended leadership training on the following topics: Responsibilities of the Group Leader, La Mod Refresher, Understanding SMI Youth, conducted by **Dr. Fernando Regalado of LSU**, La Mod Components (Team Meetings, Check-ins, Circling Up, Senior Team Meetings, Group Meetings,

Youth Orientation, Journaling, Dress Code, Professional Boundaries), Confidentiality, Post Orders, OJJ's Mission, Vision and Guiding Principles and Creating Teams.

Implementation of the Unit Management Reorganization Plan will begin this month. Students in the school will have an introduction to the plan during class. They will meet with the teacher assigned to their dormitory. Their Group Leaders, Assistant Group Leaders and Case Worker will present the plan and go over expectations for their dormitory. This will be a chance for everyone who works in a dorm to get together and talk about the plans for their dorm.

The first team meeting after the roll-out will be held in Nia and Rex dorms. All staff who work in the dorms (all day/night shifts, education representative, LSUHSC, leadership representatives) will attend.

Welcome to the Family: New Staff Orientation

BCCY is eager to welcome new staff to the campus. In order to ease the hiring process, increase retention (currently 81% over the past six months) and build professional relationships, an Orientation Training was designed for all new employees, to be held the week before actual training begins. The first Orientation Training was held in January. Approximately 12 new staff members met in the Administrative Conference Room with the Directors and all department heads. The current staff warmly welcomed the newcomers and everyone had a chance to introduce themselves. The new staff were given information about payroll, buying lunch tickets, Riverside High School, dress code, contraband items, professional boundaries, human resource issues as well as the Vision and Mission of the Office of Juvenile Justice. BCCY's La Mod program was introduced and the new staff were told about the treatment-

oriented approach we use with the youth. New staff were given a chance to have their questions answered. As a result of the Orientation, the new class has had an excellent attitude throughout the four week training session and appear to be excited about the opportunity to make a positive difference in the lives of the youth at BCCY.



Planning the Orientation Training

Riverside Alternative High School Activities

Martin Luther King Day Library Activities

The week before the Martin Luther King holiday, students participated in a unit entitled The Boyhood Life of Martin Luther King. The students completed the unit in the library where they defined terms associated with the slain civil rights leader. Students also watched the film "The Boyhood Life of Martin Luther King" and took the quiz that accompanied the movie. Students completed fun and educational activities associated with the unit, including word searches and puzzles. Students completing the unit received certificates of completion.

Inauguration Day Activities

Ms. Dorean Phoenix, our school principal, coordinated efforts for students to celebrate and witness the historic 44th Inauguration of the President of the United States, Barack Obama. Students, dorm staff and teaching staff assembled in the dorms to witness the event on television. Kids enjoyed healthy snacks and completed

educational packets on the Inauguration. Students also played Inauguration Bingo and Race to the White House. Students discussed the events of the day and were excited about participating in such a historic occasion.

News from the Chaplain/Volunteer Services

BCCY Youth Ministers to Others

Youth Minister J. Brown witnessed at the New Testament Baptist Church in New Orleans. Youth Brown is one of the many youth at BCCY who ministers at the facility and has the opportunity to minister off campus.

Ministering Youth Sunday is held once a month to give youth an opportunity to preach and pray on and off campus. On Ministering Youth Sunday, our youth conduct the entire service, bringing the Word, prayer, praise and worship. BCCY has many prayer warriors. Youth Brown truly is a faithful prayer warrior.

10 Minutes with The King

In November, 2008, we conducted a daily prayer service for staff. The staff will come together again monthly. Those who cannot meet in the Chapel will remain in their work area and pray.

Outreach Ministry

On January 24 the Jesus is Lord Evangelistic Outreach Ministry, under the direction of Pastor Donald C. Williams, visited BCCY youth. The chapel service included worship and praise by the church's praise team, "The Levites." The ministry's volunteers and the students look forward to next month's visit on the fourth Saturday of February.

Church Service and Bible Studies

BCCY church service schedules are as follows: Sunday, 2:30--3:30 p.m.; Catholic Services 6-7 p.m. Saturday Church Service is 3-4 p.m. and Bible Study is held Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 6- 7 p.m. Families are welcome to attend Sunday Services from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Orientation and Volunteer Training

On January 30 our Volunteer Coordinator, Chaplain Dr. Beulah Moore, conducted orientation and volunteer training at House of Deliverance Church in Algiers. During the training, Dr. Moore also recruited volunteers.

Central Office

Promotions

Katie Kirkpatrick was recently promoted to **Program Coordinator** in CQIS. Katie previously served as the Confidential Assistant to the Deputy Secretary, and as the HR Analyst for SCY, and the New Orleans, Thibodaux, Lake Charles, Shreveport, Hammond, and Natchitoches Regional Offices.

Shenikka Ferguson has been promoted to Human Resource Specialist.

Thrivent Financial provided Bibles for OJJ Youth

Over 100 Bibles were purchased and distributed to youth in OJJ facilities during December, with funding of \$1000.00 provided by the Baton Rouge LA-Southern MS Chapter of Thrivent Financial. Thrivent Chapter Records Director **Katherine Abrams**, Administrative Assistant to Deputy Assistant Secretary Carolyn Lewis, requested the funding for the Bibles. A Christmas dinner hosted by Thrivent Financial was attended by OJJ

representatives **Deputy Assistant Secretary Carolyn B. Lewis** and **Communications Director Jerel Giarrusso**, where Ms. Lewis gave a brief history of OJJ and a special thanks for the donation.

Superbowl Time! Cardinals versus Steelers!

To kick off Superbowl weekend, Central Office Morale Committee members **Nita Franklin-Shanklin, Katherine Abrams, Marvel Adams, Clarett Blount, Anne Carter, Suzie Durrett, Nykisha Franklin, Shirley Jackson, Kimberly Jones, Katie Kirkpatrick, Phyllis Martello, Gail Miller, Glenda Ratcliff, Terri Scott** and **Shaeki Shanklin**, put together a Superbowl party on January 30 for Central Office staff. Donuts, juice and milk were served during the morning hours.



Yolanda Ellis makin' pancakes.



Monica Williams enjoys breakfast, with **Nona Tucker** about to join in.



Nita Franklin Shanklin and Marvel Adams keep the goodies coming.

Economist Yolanda Ellis surprised everyone by bringing pancake batter, syrup and a griddle, and made pancakes on-site for everyone. **Undersecretary James Bueche's wife Sheetal** sent gorgeous, scrumptious cupcakes from her company, Sweet Wishes.

Throughout the day, staff snacked on chips, dips and sweets—here's to those New Year's resolutions!

Some staff wore their favorite team shirts. The committee decorated "Livers' Lane," the hall near Dr. Livers' office, with the names of executive team members assigned to football positions (raising the plaintive cry, "What DOES a fullback do? Or "What's a tight end?") Kudos goes to the committee members for putting this party together. THANK YOU!

Hammond Regional Office

Our **Administrative Coordinator 4, Sharon Plamann** is retiring on February 8th. Her last day of work is February 6th and the Hammond OJJ office is hosting a retirement party in her honor. We wish her the best of luck!!!

Welcome to **Jessica Freeman**, our new **Clerical Assistant**. We're happy to have her on board.

At our January general staff meeting, **Susan Taylor with LSU** presented the FISH Program to our staff. Staff

thoroughly enjoyed the presentation and the boost in morale that it created! Someone had the great idea to create a motivational program based on the guys in Seattle who work at the Pike Place Fish Market and toss the fish. The program talks about how the fish market workers choose their attitude (positive over negative), play, make the customers' day, and have fun working there. The whole premise was that it could basically be a cruddy job working in a freezing cold fish market in Seattle, but these people really love their work – and people come from all over to see them toss fish. It was a lot of fun.

Jetson Center for Youth

Congratulations

Executive Staff Officer Barbara Bell was chosen for the Director's Award of Excellence. Director Daron Brown said, "Barbara is very professional and a complete team player. She does an outstanding job maintaining the VR-1 database. JCY is in 100 percent compliance when it comes to the Performance Planning and Review (PPR) process. She is outstanding in working with the public and keeps the Directors informed about important information. Ms. Bell is truly an asset to this facility."

Employees of the Quarter – Oct. – Dec. 2008

Support – **Arthur Brown**, Maintenance
Foreman, Maintenance
 YouthCare Worker – **DaQuanta Palmer**,
Mst. Sergeant, Warehouse
 Treatment – **Chasity Richardson**, Social
 Services Counselor 2
 Education – **Sheila Holliday**, Tutor
 Supervisor – **Janice Jones**, Social
 Worker V/Program Manager
 Administrative – **Leona Bailey**,
 Instructor, Staff Development

Jetson Bests BCCY in Basketball

January 24 saw the Jetson and Bridge City basketball teams meet. JCY Director Daron Brown commended youth and staff from both facilities for their sportsmanship. Without gloating at all, Director Brown reported the score of the game was JCY – 52, BCCY – 40. We did not receive a report from BCCY on this event.

Lafayette/Opelousas Regional Office

Regional Manager Sharon Guillory participated in a panel discussion entitled “Foster Care and Crime: Ownership Issues for Dually Involved Youth.” This multi-agency panel addressed the need for teamwork and collaboration for children who are receiving services from multiple agencies and especially foster care. The panel was part of the Together We Can Conference held in January at the Lafayette Hilton.

Anniversary

PPO Kevin Broussard celebrated five years with OJJ in January.

PPO Kevin Broussard has been working with the Abbeville High School Speech and Debate for the past three years. Four debaters from Abbeville High School recently placed at two local tournaments.

PPO Joey Graciana completed the Glock Amorer's Course with the Lafayette Sheriff's Department.

PPO Joey Graciana and **PPO Deacon Jones** have completed the PPCT Instructors' Course with Larry Pohlam, an Adult Probation and Parole Instructor. They will now be eligible to

become PPCT instructors for Lafayette OJJ. Congratulations!

Education Specialist Lou Bertha Gloston attended a conference entitled Improving Transition Outcomes for Youth in Lafayette, in January. The conference focused on high school redesign, career and technical education, and ensuring literacy and numeracy for all. The state of Louisiana has a new focus on collecting data and improving educational outcomes.

Lake Charles Regional Office

Congratulations to **PPO3 Karli Pullard**, who celebrated nine years with OJJ.

Monroe Regional Office

PPO3 Erica Hollingsworth and **PPS Karl Wallace** attended the Office of Risk Management conference in Pineville in January. Officer Hollingsworth is the new Safety Officer for Monroe OJJ.

PPOs Cheryl Pringle and **Steven Pelfrey** are attending the POST Academy. We wish them the best.

Natchitoches Regional Office

Welcome to two new **PPOs**, **Heather Christophe** and **Kelvin Jones**.

Thanks!

Regional Manager Randall Hill, AC4 Rosa Brownlee and **AC3 Monica Breedlove** would like to give a big thank-you to the staff at Monroe OJJ for hosting the Purchasing Training on January 21. The snacks and hospitality were much appreciated. We would like to say “thank you” to **Central Office Staff, Deputy Undersecretary Paula**

Roddy, Accountant Administrator 3 Tina Stribling, Procurement Director John Fruge', and Procurement Specialist Nona Tucker, who presented the Training.

Congratulations

Hearty congratulations to **Abby Hill**, daughter of **Regional Manager Randall Hill**, for being selected Bienville Parish Student of the Year! Abby will now compete on the Regional level!

PPO3 Simon Sarpy reports that 10th JDC Drug Court is moving forward. Ten of our youth are successfully working the program and entering into Phase 2 and Phase 3.

PPO3 Simon Sarpy also reports that Red River Parish has the first female ever elected to serve as District Attorney in the history of the State of Louisiana. We would like to welcome **Julie Jones, District Attorney for Red River Parish**. Natchitoches OJJ staff look forward to working closely with DA Jones.

New Orleans/Jefferson Regional Office

Orleans OJJ hosted a tour of BCCY for providers, including the Youth Empowerment Project, Volunteers of America, American Resource Technicians, Department of Juvenile Services and Gulf Coast Teaching Family Services. The providers visited dorms, the new cafeteria and the recreation area and had the opportunity to talk to the youth.

PPS Shawn Herbert's daughter Brittany Ussin has joined the ranks of the

Millsaps College girl's basketball team.

In high school Brittany was named Quarterback Club "Athlete of the Year," earned the team's Scholastic Award for three consecutive years, and the High Scorer Award all four years... only to mention a few of her honors. Brittany also ran cross country and track, and despite her busy schedule, she still found time to work at the Orleans OJJ Office. Congratulations to our former excellent student worker.

Shreveport Regional Office

Welcome to **Atejia Glover – Student Worker**

Swanson Center for Youth

Anniversaries:

Counselor Ronald Johnson, 15 years
Principal William Lee, 10 years
Sgt. Jessica Auston, five years
Sgt. Lee Ballard, five years

Welcome to New Employees

Phyllis Benon – Cadet
Beth Betz – Social Service Counselor
Antonio Bradshaw – Cadet
Malisha Ellis – Youth Care Worker 1
Justin Harris – Cadet
Clarence Haywood – Cadet
Latonka Jones – Social Service Counselor
Eric Wilcher – Social Service Counselor

Mimosa Does it Again!

On January 28 six youth from Mimosa general population dorm earned the right to go off campus and participate in their monthly service project with the Veterans Home of Northeast Louisiana. They enjoyed visiting with the veterans while assisting in playing bingo. All youth enjoyed their time there, giving a new meaning to assisting others. Their next project is to clean out the shed where clothing is kept for the veterans.

Condolences

Our condolences to **Sgt. Elisha Brown**, who recently lost his mother, and to **Lt. James Woods, Staff Development**, who lost his father.

SCY Reaches out to Christian Acres

Treatment Director Jan James reports that, due to the death of a Christian Acres staff member in January, Central Office requested that two Swanson Social Services staff go to Christian Acres and check on OJJ youth. **Dan Williams** and **Jan** went after hours, and reported that the staff and youth appreciated their taking the time to check on them. Dan and Jan went through La Mod training with some of the staff, including the deceased officer's brother, who work at the facility. "We felt a connection to the staff and were glad that we had taken the time from our schedules to go to Christian Acres and be there for them," Jan said. "Dan and I heard from several staff how hurt they were that the Director of Christian Acres did not come to the dormitory and talk to them. They appeared to just need some encouragement."

Jan reports that she and Dan:

- Went to the dorm where the Youth Care Officer worked.
- Went to the dorm housing OJJ youth.
- Relayed condolences from Central Office and SCY.
- Conducted a Group Meeting.
 - Encouraged the youth to journal, write poetry, make cards, and write letters to family.
 - Encouraged the youth to discuss their feelings with each other and with staff.
 - Discussed a memory box and committed the SCY Building

Trades vocational program to make one.

- Allowed any youth who wanted to talk to them individually to do so.
- Listened to staff expressions of grief over their friend and co-worker.
- Encouraged staff and youth to pull from their spiritual beliefs to assist them with their grief.

Annual Relay season at Swanson!



Pictured is a shirt donated by Kimberly Peters-Craft

The kickoff for the annual celebration of support, recovery, and survivorship called Relay For Life is officially underway with the unveiling of the 2009 Relay For Life Team shirt "Yes we Can! Defeat Cancer!" The Swanson 'Relay' team participates in the American Cancer Society's (ACS) annual event, with the shirt being sold throughout the Ouachita Parish community, the U.S. and Canada. Proceeds support patient services of the American Cancer Society. This year the Relay for Life Event is May 1st at Ouachita High School on Millhaven Road in Monroe.

This will be the 13th year for Ouachita Parish and the biggest year yet. The Relay for Life Event is celebrating its 26th year and is the largest fundraiser, not only for the American Cancer Society, but also the largest benefit in in the world, which includes three continents and 18 countries!

If you are going through cancer, you are a SURVIVIOR. If you have helped

someone become a SURVIVOR then you should be celebrated as a CAREGIVER. If you have lost someone to cancer you are a SURVIVOR, and you all are the reason we have this event every year at Swanson.

To order a team shirt for \$15.00, please contact **Kimberly Peters-Craft**, Team Captain at 318-651-4919.

Kimberly is an LSU counselor at Swanson.

Tallulah Regional Office

We are very happy that **Regional Manager Ruth Stephens** is finally back after being on extended leave to care for her husband, who is recuperating from his illness.

Thibodaux Regional Office

Congratulations

Employee of the Month for December 2008 was **PPO 2 Josh Becnel**.

Employee of the Quarter of July-September 2008 was **PPO 2 Keith Kotoski**.

Retirement

PPO 2 John Chauvin retired on January 19. We celebrate John's contributions to OJJ youth and wish him well in this new chapter of life.

Welcome

Welcome to new **PPO Jamie Hebert**.

The Inside Scoop...of

The Inside Scoop...of OJJ is published monthly to communicate with and about OJJ staff in offices and facilities throughout the state, about agency activities, happenings and items of interest.

The Inside Scoop...of OJJ is produced by the Central Office with input from staff statewide.

...until next

OJJ Administrative Team

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Prince E. Gray, Jr., Assistant Secretary
James Bueche, Undersecretary
Paula (Merrick) Roddy, Deputy Undersecretary
Carolyn B. Lewis, Deputy Assistant Secretary,
Community Based Services
Philippe Magloire, Deputy Assistant Secretary,
Facilities
Ellyn Peterson, Chief of Operations/Deputy Assistant
Secretary, Continuous Quality Improvement Services
Michelle Smith, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Special
Projects
Marlyn Goins-McCants, Family & Community Liaison
Kim B. Mims, Director of Education
Martha Morgan, General Counsel
Gwendolyn Jones, Human Resources Director
Dawson Andrews, Information Technology Director
Glenn Holt, Project Manager, Capital Outlay Projects
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Baton Rouge: Michelle Thomas
Bridge City: Cassandra Washington & Monique Jones
Central Office: Anne Carter & Katherine Abrams
Hammond: Sharon Plamann and Courtney Pegues
Jetson: Daron Brown
Lafayette/Opelousas: Steve Neef
Lake Charles: Melissa Cross
Monroe: Gail Wilson
Natchitoches: Rosa Brownlee
New Orleans: Paulette Carter & Judy Warren
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